

BYLAWS FOR THE GREEN PARTY OF RHODE ISLAND

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PREAMBLE

- PURPOSE. The Green Party of Rhode Island seeks to bring knowledge about Green Values to the people of Rhode Island, and to represent those values, to the greatest extent possible, through election and appointment of Party members and supporters to public offices of the local, state, and federal governments. We shall strive daily to be the political representative of these ideals, both in how we conduct ourselves, and in what we advocate for and legislate. We are proud to be a part of the global Green network and will contribute to it what we learn in Rhode Island.

GREEN VALUES

FOUR PILLARS. Green Values have been enumerated in a variety of ways. One of the most common in the United States is the "Ten Key Values" of Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Ecological Wisdom, Non-Violence, Decentralization, Community-Based Economics and Economic Justice, Feminism and Gender Equity, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and Future Focus and Sustainability. A more concise version of our political values, and the one that we use in our daily work, is based on the Four Pillars of the German Greens (Die Gruenen), and the global Green movement:

- ECOLOGY. The world faces unprecedented ecological crises, including global warming and climate change, mass extinction, and natural resource exhaustion, with potentially catastrophic impacts on the world's societies—including our own in the State of Rhode Island. The Green Party recognizes these profound ecological challenges to natural and human communities, accepts responsibility for an informed local response, and seeks to offer effective, ecologically aware policy alternatives for the State of Rhode Island. Without a healthy natural environment, there can be no healthy, productive human society.
- EQUALITY. The Green Party believes that each human person is fundamentally equal, deserving equal rights, opportunity, and treatment. No differences of culture, race, age, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, ability, economic class, or any other characteristic, are more important than our fundamental equality. When every person's need for security, safety, community, and respect is satisfied, then all persons can

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contribute fully and creatively to the welfare and progress of humanity as a whole. Our recognition of human equality demands respect for political equality as well, motivating our commitment to voter empowerment, free and fair elections, and full participation.

- DEMOCRACY. For Greens, democracy is a fundamental principle guiding Party, community, and government. We practice grassroots democracy in our own activities, advocate public democracy in our policies, and promote full participatory democracy in our political campaigns. Without democracy there can be no legitimate government; until all people are empowered in their communities, states, and nations, there can be no freedom from racial, gender, and economic inequality, from corporate greed, or from the militarism and aggression which arises from and reinforces militarism, war, and violence in our communities.
- PEACE. The Green commitment to peace goes beyond a desire for the absence of war. We believe in active peacemaking and deliberate nonviolence, in the way we treat one another, in the design of public policies, in the conduct of diplomacy, and in Party's interactions with other political and social organizations. Not only is war the ultimate ecological catastrophe, and violence the ultimate violation of human rights, but we recognize as Greens that preparations for war, and the fear of violence, themselves lead to yet more violence. Without peace, there can be no ecological healing, equality, or democracy.
- ELECTORAL ALTERNATIVE. The Green Party of Rhode Island is a genuine electoral alternative for the people of Rhode Island, practicing a politics based on the Four Pillars, and the Ten Key Values. The Party will use a variety of tactics and strategies in its activities. These will include electoral campaigns, issue campaigns, coalition building and the creation of alternative structures.
- HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY. The Green Party of Rhode Island shall never discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, spiritual belief, gender, sexual orientation, or physical condition.

1.0 MEMBERSHIP AND CANDIDACY FOR OFFICE

- 1.1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP. Any person over the age of sixteen who is a resident of Rhode Island, actively participates in Party activities, and affirms commitment to Green values, may be a member. In addition, for persons who are eighteen or older, membership in the Green Party of Rhode Island may be declared by designating "Green Party" on a valid voter registration card which is submitted to the proper authorities. However, whenever such party designation is not available, or if the prospective member is not a qualified elector by reason of age or legal status, he or she may become a member by declaring Party membership on a form provided by the State Committee. Said form shall request that the prospective member attest

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to his or her agreement with the Green Values of Ecology, Equality, Democracy, and Peace, and that he or she is not affiliated with another ballot qualified party in Rhode Island.

- 1.2 MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION. In order to take part in the decision making bodies of the Green Party of Rhode Island, including its committees, meetings, and Conventions, a person must be a member of the Green Party.
- 1.3 GREEN VALUES AND PARTY MEMBERSHIP. Adherence to the values of Ecology, Equality, Democracy, and Peace is expected of all members, and an understanding of how these values intersect and reinforce one another, helps us do our work better.
- 1.4 GREEN PARTY CANDIDATES. Candidates for office on the Green Party ballot line must be members of the Green Party of Rhode Island and meet all residency requirements and deadlines established in the Rhode Island Election Code, except that when the Green Party is not a ballot-qualified party under Rhode Island law, any qualified elector who is not currently affiliated with a different ballot-qualified party, may seek public office as a "Green Party" candidate, contingent on the approval of the State Committee, and under the State's nomination provisions governing independent candidates.
- 1.5 ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER CANDIDATES. In extraordinary cases, when a candidate for elective office demonstrates significant agreement and adherence to Green values, and where no Green Party candidate is on the ballot for the same office, the State Committee may at its discretion, and by majority vote, make a qualified endorsement of that candidate.

2.0 STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

2.1 GENERAL ORGANIZATION. The Green Party of Rhode Island's organizational structure is designed to grow as the Party grows. The Party's primary decision making body is the State Committee which, except where delegated or limited in these bylaws or by its own rules, shall exercise day-to-day authority on all matters before the Party. As the Party membership's size and geographic distribution allow, the Party structure may also include a Leadership Committee, five County Councils (Providence, Kent, Washington, Newport, and Bristol), eight City Committees, thirty-one Town Committees, Legislative District Committees (two congressional, seventy-five House, and thirty-eight Senate), and Ward Committees for those municipalities which elect public offices by ward.

- 2.1.1 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. The State Committee's powers, however, are subject to the ultimate authority of the general membership of the Party, expressing its will through the primary ballot, or at a General Membership Meeting or Convention. An annual meeting of the General Membership shall be called by the Chair, or by the Leadership Committee, in the spring of each year. Between Primaries, Conventions, and General

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Membership Meetings, a variety of other bodies may be formed as needed to conduct the affairs of the Party. In even numbered years the Party shall hold a State Convention, within the time frames of Rhode Island law, to fulfill its political obligations. This Convention will be considered the annual General Membership meeting for that year, and will also be held in the spring. The annual General Membership Meeting will be announced to the membership via email or other electronic means, at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

- 2.1.2 SPECIAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Notwithstanding the above, a General Membership Meeting may be called at any time, by the Chair or by any twenty (20) members of the State Committee. Any Special General Membership Meeting will be announced to the membership via email or other electronic means, at least one week prior to the date of the meeting.

2.2 STATE COMMITTEE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS. The selection process for members of the State Committee will evolve, as the Party grows in membership and geographic scope. Until such time that broadly representative County Councils exist, new and replacement State Committee members shall be elected by the current State Committee, from a slate nominated by the Chair, by other officers, or from the floor of the General Membership Meeting. Every effort should be made to ensure broad representation on the State Committee, both geographically and along diverse lines of identity and interest.

- 2.2.1 SIZE OF THE STATE COMMITTEE. The size of the State Committee will vary, but until such time that County Councils are formed, shall not exceed the number of seats in the Rhode Island House of Representatives (75, as of 2012). However, at such time that the State Committee shall declare sufficient Party membership and geographic scope to allow formation of five County Councils, the total number of seats on the State Committee shall be set equal to the combined number of municipal council seats then in existence, in the five counties.
- 2.2.2 INITIAL PROVISIONS: ELECTION BY STATE COMMITTEE. When elected by the State Committee, new and replacement State Committee members shall, to the extent possible, be approved by consensus; however, in the absence of consensus, a majority vote shall be sufficient to elect any member to the State Committee. In addition, should more candidates for election be nominated than there are seats available, nominees shall be elected in the order of votes received, except in no case may a nominee be elected without receiving at least a majority of votes cast. Vacancies may be filled at any time, by consensus or majority vote of the State Committee, following nomination and election provisions from 2.2, above. Additional nomination and election rules as are needed, and which are not inconsistent with the general principles herein, may be adopted by majority vote of the State Committee.

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- 2.2.3 ELECTION BY COUNTY COUNCILS. At the next State General Meeting following the State Committee's declaration of sufficient Party membership and scope to form County Councils (see 2.2, above), State Committee members shall be elected by their respective County Councils, in numbers equal to the combined number of municipal seats then in existence, in each county. Applicable rules for nomination and election by County Councils shall be promulgated by the State Committee, pursuant to the declaration of County Council formation.
- 2.2.4 ELECTION BY PARTY PRIMARY. At such time that the Green Party of Rhode Island may achieve political party status under the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, and with the approval of the extant State Committee, members of the State Committee may be elected at the next subsequent Party primary, according to provisions of state law. In any districts, however, for which there is no contested primary election for State Committee, seats shall be filled according to either 2.2.2 or 2.2.3, above.
- 2.2.5 STATE COMMITTEE TERM OF OFFICE. Each member of the State Committee shall serve a term of two years, beginning with the date of election, but notwithstanding this term, shall remain in office until such time that his or her replacement has been duly elected. Members may serve any number of terms, until resignation, removal, or replacement.
- 2.2.6 MEETINGS OF THE STATE COMMITTEE. Ordinarily, meetings of the State Committee will be called by the Chair, or the Leadership Committee, as needed. In special circumstances, a special meeting of the State Committee may also be called at the request of any ten (10) State Committee members. In either case, all members of the State Committee will be notified of the date, time, and place of the meeting, at least one week prior. The Chair will preside over all meetings of the State Committee, and shall be responsible for its agenda.

2.3 LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE. Should political conditions and Party growth warrant, the State Committee may empower a Leadership Committee, which shall consist of the state Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; such Vice Chairs as have been appointed by the Chair or the State Committee; any additional officers whose duties have been specified by the Chair or the State Committee; the Party's delegates to the Green National Committee; and the Chairpersons of any duly established standing committees of the Party.

- 2.3.1. LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE DUTIES. Once established, the Leadership Committee may propose budgets to the State Committee, authorize the expenditure of Party funds, approve public statements, and take action on key issues of our times. It may also form Party committees and appoint members to those committees, assist Party members in doing their work on the various committees, and settle any disputes that may arise within those committees. The Leadership Committee shall be responsible for notifying the General Membership regarding annual or

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special meetings and conventions, as well as insuring that those meetings are properly facilitated. The Chair will preside over meetings of the Leadership Committee, shall be responsible for its agenda, and prior to its establishment by the State Committee, will perform its various duties as specified herein. The Leadership Committee may at its discretion authorize any of its members to perform any of its duties as specified herein.

2.4 GENERAL OFFICERS: At an annual General Membership Meeting or Convention, the Green Party of Rhode Island shall elect three (3) general Officers of the Party: a Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each will serve for a term of three years from the date of election, or until resignation or removal for cause. Notwithstanding this term, each shall remain in office until his or her replacement has been duly elected. Officers may serve multiple terms, at the discretion of the General Membership Meeting or Convention at which an expired term is to be filled. When there are multiple candidates for one of the three elected offices, Instant Runoff Voting shall be used. Other officers may include Vice Chairs and Directors, with duties specified by the Chair or the State Committee; delegates to the Green National Committee or other committees of the Green Party of the United States; and Chairpersons of any duly-established statewide committees. Irrespective of means of election or appointment, each Officer serves the Membership, and may be removed for cause at any time, by majority vote of the State Committee, General Membership Meeting, or Convention. Petitions for removal may be presented by any member or members, but must be endorsed by no fewer than ten (10) members of the State Committee.

- **2.4.1 CHAIR.** The Chair will preside over meetings of the General Membership, Convention, State Committee, and Leadership Committee. Except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws, or in other Rules of the Party set by the General Membership, Convention, or State Committee, the Chair shall serve as the primary general spokesperson for the Party; represent the Party before government agencies; report as needed to Party officers, committees, and members; and exercise such other duties as are required for the smooth and effective operation and leadership of the Party. The Chair may be either male or female, but it is expected that the gender of the Chair will alternate with each triennial election. Vacancy in the office of Chair due to resignation, removal, death, inactivity, or incapacity, will be filled by an appointee of the Secretary; this appointed replacement shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election.

- **2.4.2 SECRETARY.** The Secretary will safeguard the general documentary records and archives of the Party; report as needed to Party officers, committees, and members; file and retain such official reports as are required by Local, State, or Federal agencies; and perform such other generally recognized official duties of an organizational Secretary as may from time to time be requested by other officers or committees of the Party. The Secretary may be either male or female, but it is expected that the

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gender of the Secretary will alternate with each triennial election. Vacancy in the office of Secretary due to resignation, removal, death, inactivity, or incapacity, will be filled by an appointee of the Chair, who shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election.

- 2.4.3 TREASURER. The Treasurer will safeguard the financial accounts, records, and archives of the Party; serve as a signatory or co-account holder for all financial accounts; report as needed to Party officers, committees, and members; report as needed to Local, State, or Federal agencies, including the Rhode Island Board of Elections; and perform such other generally recognized official duties of an organizational Treasurer as may from time to time be requested by other officers or committees of the Party. The Treasurer may be either male or female, but it is expected that the gender of the Treasurer will alternate with each triennial election. Vacancy in the office of Treasurer, due to resignation, removal, death, inactivity, or incapacity, will be filled by an appointee of the Chair, who shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election.
- 2.4.4 VICE CHAIRS. Following each triennial election, the Chair shall identify key needs of the Party and the State, and appoint a requisite number of Vice Chairs with specific portfolios, who will serve as spokespersons and policy leaders for those areas of need. For example, a Vice Chair might be appointed for each of the key areas emphasized in our Platform: Ecology and Economy; Equality, Social Justice, and Human Rights; Democracy, Representation, and Participation; and Peace and Nonviolence. Other areas of need might be similarly addressed, as with Education and Youth Empowerment, Tax and Fiscal Fairness, etc. Vice Chairs may be either male or female, but it is expected that to the greatest extent possible, gender parity will be maintained.
- 2.4.5 DIRECTORS. Following each triennial election, the Chair shall identify key organizational needs of the Party, and appoint a requisite number of Directors with specific assignments, who will serve as Party officers for internal and organizational requirements. For example, these officers might include Directors for Organization and Community; Donations and Merchandise; News Media; Research and Policy Development; or Membership. Directors may be either male or female, but it is expected that to the greatest extent possible, gender parity will be maintained.
- 2.4.6 NATIONAL DELEGATES. Delegates and Alternates to the Green National Committee, and other committees of the Green Party of the United States, shall be elected by the State Committee, for two year terms, but shall remain in office until replacements have been duly elected. Delegates and Alternates may be either male or female, but it is expected that to the greatest extent possible, gender balance will be maintained. Vacancies due to resignation, removal, death, inactivity, or incapacity, will be filled by appointees of the Chair. Delegates to the National Committee or the

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national party's various other committees shall serve as liaisons between the state and national Green parties, and shall to the greatest practicable extent, consult with Party officers and the State Committee, on matters before the national Party.

- 2.5 COUNTY COUNCILS. When warranted by the Party membership's size and geographic distribution, the Party structure may be amended to establish five County Councils, for Providence, Kent, Washington, Newport, and Bristol Counties. Prior to establishment of the County Councils, the State Committee shall by majority vote declare the need for their formation, and shall report the means by which Party members shall subsequently be empowered to elect the Councils' membership. The number of members of such County Councils will be equal to the combined total number of municipal council seats, for all cities and towns within the respective County. County Council members shall in the first instance be appointed by the state Chair. Members must be members of the Green Party of Rhode Island and residents of their respective counties, but need not be qualified electors. They shall hold office from the date of their appointment until the first or subsequent election according to procedures established by the State Committee but in all instances, shall serve until their successors shall have been duly elected, qualified, and organized. Elections to the County Councils will be organized by the State Committee. Members of any County Council, whether appointed or elected, may be removed for cause by majority vote of the State Committee—pursuant to a removal petition filed by the Chair or by any ten (10) members of the State Committee.
- 2.6 CITY, TOWN, AND WARD COMMITTEES. When the Party's membership and scope are sufficiently developed, the Party will authorize committees representing Party members in the state's various cities, towns, and wards within municipalities. These committee members shall in the first instance be selected by the state Chair. The members of such Party committees must be qualified electors of their respective cities, towns, and wards. Subsequently, as justified by the Party's legal ballot status, growth in Party membership, and political conditions, such Party committees may be elected in primary elections organized by the State of Rhode Island and according to state laws governing political parties. Members of any city, town, or ward committee may be removed for cause, by majority vote of the State Committee—pursuant to a removal petition filed by the Chair or by any ten (10) members of the State Committee.
- 2.7 DISTRICT COMMITTEES. When the state Party's membership and scope are sufficiently developed, the Party will authorize a senatorial district committee for each state senatorial district to consist of five (5) members where the senatorial district is contained within a single city or town, and to consist of seven (7) members where the senatorial district includes all or parts of two (2) or more cities or towns. There shall also be a representative district committee for each representative district to consist of three (3) members where the representative district is contained within a single city or town, and

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to consist of five (5) members where the representative district includes all or parts of two (2) or more cities or towns. Likewise, as conditions and Party development warrant, the Party will authorize a congressional district committee for each of the state's congressional districts, to consist of seven (7) members. Congressional, and state senatorial and representative district committee members shall in the first instance be appointed by the state Chair. The members of these district committees must be qualified electors of their respective districts. The members shall hold office from the date of their appointment until the next election of the committees, and thereafter until their successors shall have been duly elected, qualified and organized.

Subsequently, as justified by the Party's legal ballot status, growth in Party membership, and political conditions, such Party committees may be elected in primary elections organized by the State of Rhode Island and according to state laws governing political parties. Members of any congressional or legislative district committee may be removed for cause, by majority vote of the State Committee—pursuant to a removal petition filed by the Chair or by any ten (10) members of the State Committee.

- 2.8 SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES. In order to coordinate administrative and political activities of the Party, such Special or Standing Committees as are deemed necessary may be established. Any such Special or Standing Committee may be created by the Chair, or by majority vote of the State Committee, and should the need arise, dissolved by a majority vote of the State Committee. Special and Standing Committees may propose budgets and request funding from the State Committee. Special and Standing Committees shall report to each meeting of the State Committee, Convention, and General Membership, or as requested by the Chair.

2.9 LOCAL WORKING GROUPS AND LOCAL COMMITTEES. Party Members may organize themselves into working groups or committees of all kinds, including committees based on legislative district, congressional district, town, city, ward, county or any other form of voting district(s). These committees may also be based on watershed areas or other bioregions. Any Party member wishing to be involved in the activities of a particular committee or working group is eligible to do so, provided that when the committee is based on voting district the member is a qualified elector within the district. Whenever the State of Rhode Island has specific laws governing the activities, or manner of activity, regarding a particular type of committee, applicable state laws shall be followed. Working groups or committees shall propose their own bylaws for the functioning of that group in harmony with the bylaws of the Party as well as Rhode Island State Law. Only such committees which have registered with the State Committee, and adhered to any special requirements or requests by the Chair or the State Committee, shall be considered official bodies of the Green Party of Rhode Island. In extraordinary circumstances, any such working group or committee may be dissolved by the State Committee by majority vote, when such dissolution is necessary to protect the political, organizational, or financial

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integrity of the Green Party of Rhode Island.

- 2.9.1. DUTIES AND POWERS OF LOCAL WORKING GROUPS AND LOCAL COMMITTEES. Local Groups and Committees are semi-autonomous and are responsible for their own activities. They are empowered to take on campaigns, actions, and alliances, and are the base of many important Green Party activities. Public statements by Local Groups should note that they are the statements of a Local Group and not those of the state Party, unless the Local Group has received an endorsement from the state Party. Local Groups are encouraged to ask for such statewide support, and are encouraged to carry the load on campaigns that primarily effect their regions.

3.0 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- 3.1 BALLOT WHEN CONTEST EXISTS. When the state Party's membership and scope are sufficiently developed, such that primary elections for Party nominations, and for Party committees, are called for, those primaries will be conducted according to the general provisions of state law governing parties, nominations, primaries, and elections. Whenever there is a contest within any voting district, a primary election shall be held in the voting district and the names of all prospective candidates of the Party for federal, state, or local office shall appear on the primary ballot. However, for elections to city, ward, town and legislative or congressional district committees of the Party, only those names for offices which are contested, shall appear on the primary ballot.
- 3.2 DISPENSATION OF PRIMARY WHEN NO CONTEST. Whenever there is no contest whatsoever within any voting district for the persons to be nominated or elected by the Party, no primary election shall be held in that voting district. Endorsements of the State Committee shall not be printed on the primary ballot but those candidates who have been so endorsed shall be considered nominated, and their names are to be printed on the general election ballot.

4.0 ENDORSEMENTS

4.1 ENDORSEMENT BY LOCAL COMMITTEE. Each town, ward, and city committee shall file with the appropriate local board the list of candidates in the town, ward, or city that have the endorsement of the committee. Three (3) officers of the committee shall sign endorsements by the town, ward and city committees. Each district committee shall file the list of endorsed candidates with the board of canvassers in the city or town of residence of the senatorial or representative candidate, except that if the candidate is a resident of Providence the endorsement shall be filed with the secretary of state. Endorsements by congressional and legislative district committees shall be signed by a majority of those members presently on the committee.

- 4.1.1 Endorsements by local committee shall be made prior to the last State Committee Meeting or a Green Party Convention held before June

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28th of any given election year. The local endorsements shall be reviewed at that State Committee Meeting or Convention and can be overturned with a vote of at least three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the voting members at the State Committee.

- 4.1.2 When local endorsements have been approved by the State Committee the endorsements shall be filed with the appropriate local board or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, not later than 4:00 p.m. of the day after the last day for filing declarations of candidacy.

4.2 ENDORSEMENT BY STATE COMMITTEE. The State Committee of the Green Party of Rhode Island or a Convention of the Green Party of Rhode Island shall be the deciding body on all endorsements for candidates seeking statewide office(s). The State Committee of the Green Party of Rhode Island or a Convention of the Green Party of Rhode Island shall be the deciding body and make endorsements for all offices that have not been made, or have not been made in a timely fashion, by the relevant local committees.

- 4.2.1 All candidates seeking endorsement by the State Committee or Convention shall submit such requests for endorsement prior to, or at the time of, the meeting of the State Committee or Convention.
- 4.2.2 Statewide endorsements shall be made by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the voting members at the State Committee or Convention. Endorsements for local or Congressional candidates shall also be made by the State Committee or Convention, provided that no local committee has submitted candidates for review, and must be confirmed by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the eligible members present at the State Committee meeting, or Convention. Eligible members are those who live in the appropriate district.
- 4.2.3 In the event of a candidate seeking endorsement after the appropriate State Committee Meeting or Convention has taken place, the Chair or, if one has been empowered, the Leadership Committee by a three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote, shall have the authority to endorse a candidate, but only if the office sought by that candidate is uncontested by another Green candidate.
- 4.2.4 The Chair and the Secretary shall be jointly authorized to file approved endorsements for local candidates, notifying the appropriate local board, or the secretary of state as required, whenever the appropriate town, city or district committee neglects, fails or does not exist to do so. The endorsements shall be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. on the second day after the final day for filling declarations of candidacy. The candidate(s) endorsed by the State Committee or Convention shall appear as the endorsed candidate(s) on the primary ballot in the event of a contested race, with the final nomination pending the results of the primary elections.

- 4.3 FILING DEADLINES. The State of Rhode Island requires candidates for office to file an intent to run in late June and to collect signatures on petitions during early July. Party endorsement and nominating processes shall take place at the appropriate time to meet state requirements. The Party shall use

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its usual methods to contact State Committee members about the State Committee meeting, and shall publicly announce the Convention and let the membership know by the usual methods.

5.0 DECISION MAKING

- 5.1 CONSENSUS AND MAJORITY VOTE. All bodies of the Green Party of Rhode Island shall seek consensus in all decisions, but shall have the ability to conduct votes when necessary. Administrative and meeting process decisions, and other decisions as specified herein, shall be by majority vote. Amendments to the Platform, however, require no less than a 2/3 affirmative vote by the State Committee, General Membership Meeting, or Convention.

6.0 OTHER PROVISIONS

- 6.1 SITUATIONS NOT ANTICIPATED. Where changing conditions, legal requirements, or other unanticipated developments create situations for which these bylaws offer no guidance, the State Committee shall be empowered to adopt rules in lieu of bylaws. Such rules shall be applied in as limited a way as possible, and should not conflict with existing provisions which govern comparable or analogous situations. Such rulemaking by the State Committee is subject to review by a duly-constituted General Membership Meeting or Convention, but are otherwise to be considered authoritative.
- 6.2 RESOLUTION OF AMBIGUITIES. Where ambiguous language or contradictory provisions lead to conflicting interpretations of these bylaws, the State Committee shall be empowered to issue interpretive rulings which allow the Party to resolve immediate questions without fundamentally altering the intent or the spirit of the bylaws considered in their entirety. Such interpretations by the State Committee are subject to review by a duly-constituted General Membership Meeting or Convention, but are otherwise to be considered authoritative.

7.0 AMENDING THE BYLAWS

7.1 BYLAWS COMMITTEE. These Bylaws of the Party shall be the rules that govern how the Party functions. As these are an evolving set of rules, a Standing Committee may be formed as needed, to address emerging needs and further develop these Bylaws as deemed necessary by that committee. When appropriate, a Bylaws Committee may be created by the Chair, or by majority vote of the State Committee, and should the need arise, dissolved by majority vote of the State Committee. Members may be appointed to the Committee by the Chair, or by majority vote of the State Committee. The Committee shall report to the next meeting of the State Committee, Convention, or General Membership subsequent to its formation, or as requested by the Chair.

- 7.1.1 DEADLINE. Proposed changes recommended by the Bylaws Committee shall be made available to the State Committee in writing thirty (30) days before the State Committee meeting where they will be

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considered for adoption.

- 7.1.2 NOTIFICATION. A summary of proposed changes shall be published in the notice which announces the State Committee meeting where they will be considered.

- 7.1.3 APPROVAL THRESHOLD AND REVIEW. Amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor of the amendment(s) by the State Committee in order to be enacted. Such bylaws amendments approved by the State Committee are subject to review by a duly-constituted General Membership Meeting or Convention, but are otherwise to be considered authoritative.

RATIFIED. As amended at the State Committee meeting of August 18, 2012